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AIR FORCE ADMITS MISS WITH H-BOMB

Quarles Says the Error Was
'Less Than 4 Miles' and
Blames Human Failure

CPYRGHT

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, June 16—The Government conceded today that the hydrogen bomb dropped over Bikini on May 21 missed its target point by "somewhat less than four miles."

A statement by Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of the Air Force, added that the miss "was not great enough to have a serious effect on the success of the experiment."

Mr. Quarles' statement came after published reports that the miss had been as great as seven miles. These reports had been denied emphatically by spokesmen for the Air Force.

In his statement today, Mr. Quarles said that the miss was attributable to a human error.

The statement read:

"Due to a human error, the recent thermonuclear bomb dropped by a B-52 aircraft at Bikini exploded somewhat less than four miles short of the planned position."

"The error was in the manipulation of the bombing equipment and did not involve malfunction of the aircraft or any of the equipment which it carried."

"While the error was considerably more than normally expected, it was not great enough to have a serious effect on the success of the experiment."

Advisers Fly to Pacific

Meanwhile, top atomic and security advisers left here today for the Pacific to witness the test explosion of an experimental hydrogen warhead for long-range missiles.

In the party aboard a Military Air Transport Service plane were Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and personal adviser to the President on nuclear matters; Dillon Anderson, the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs; Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Amos J. Peaslee, deputy to Harold E. Stassen, the President's aide on disarmament matters.

There was no official word as to the nature of the devices to be tested, but unofficial reports said the tests were aimed at developing hydrogen warheads for the intercontinental ballistic missiles on which both this country and Russia are working.

The current Pacific tests started May 5 with the detona-

tion of what was reported as a "pygmy" hydrogen bomb equal in power to 40,000 tons of T.N.T. The second test was that of May 21, which brought today's statement from Secretary Quarles.

Japan, U. S. to Exchange Data

TOKYO, June 16 (Reuters)—Japan has agreed to exchange information with the United States on the effects of radiation in recent nuclear tests, it was announced today.

The Japanese survey ship Shunkotsu Maru sailed south along the western side of the danger zone designated by the United States.

Experts aboard the ship reported increasing contamination of plankton (microscopic marine life), but added that no particular change was noted in sea water or atmosphere.